



# Tapuitea

...ina ia manino le folauā.

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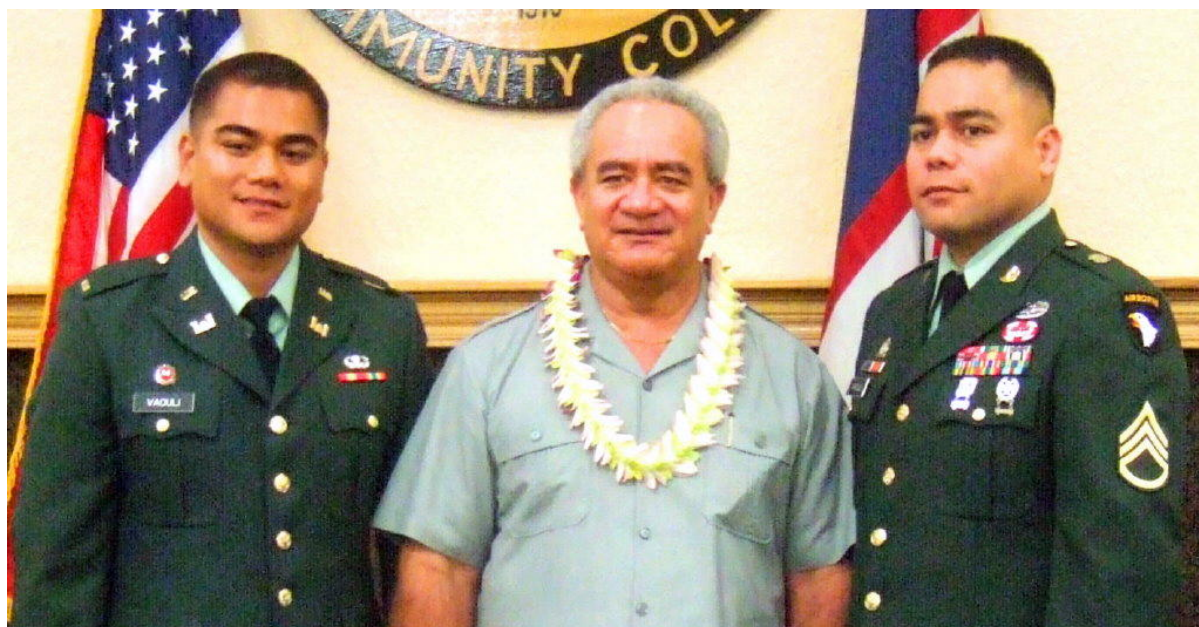
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## American Samoan ROTC Graduate Commissioned as 2LT through ASCC

*By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer*



*Governor Togiola congratulates ASCC graduate and ROTC cadet Saipale Vaouli (left), who received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in a ceremony held at the College this past Friday. Joining them is Saipale's brother, Staff Sgt. Larry Vaouli, who is currently visiting for the holidays before returning to active duty in Iraq. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)*

Friends, family and dignitaries gathered at a ceremony this past Friday at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) to honor ROTC graduate Saipale Lee Tauaa Vaouli of Aofau as he received his commission as a US Army Second Lieutenant. Guests at the ceremony included Gov. Togiola Tualafono, who gave a keynote address, as well as local ROTC pioneer Lt. Col.

Mapu Jamias, ASCC President Dr. Seth Galea'i, prominent church and community members, and the staff of the ROTC program at the College.

Born in 1982 to Tofa Afuiai Lee Tauaa and the late Mrs. Tupulua Leota Vaouli of Aofau, Saipale started his schooling at the Aofau CCCAS under Pastor Elisaia Soli and Faalelei Fuimaono. He also attended Aofau Ele-

mentary School and Pacific Horizon Academy before graduating in 2000 from Fagaitua High School. Saipale briefly attended Snow College in Utah, but returned home in 2003 to continue at ASCC, where he graduated in 2005 with an Associates of Science in Criminal Justice at a Cumulative Grade Point

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**HAVE A HAPPY, SAFE AND A PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR!**

## ASPA will take over house-to-house solid waste collection beginning next year

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) will begin house-to-house solid waste (or garbage) collection for residential homes beginning Jan. 2, 2009.

For about the past ten years, residential and commercial solid waste collection services have been performed via no-bid contracts by two local contractors. Over a year ago, ASPA announced that it planned to bring these services in-house upon expiration of the current contracts. ASPA conducted a cost/benefit analysis of in-house collection versus outsourcing and determined it to be a significant cost savings measure benefiting all of its customers.

"This spring, ASPA intends to rebalance its rates to better reflect the true cost of service for each division," said ASPA Solid Waste Division Manager Petero Lafaele. "This has been an ongoing criticism we are attempting to resolve through our rate study. In the meantime, we are doing everything possible to reduce operating costs to lessen the impact to the customer." ASPA CEO Mike Keyser added: "Think of it this way: Our actual cost of outsourced collection is \$15 per home. We currently charge \$3. If we rebalance the rates right now, the customer's rate will increase by \$12. But if we reduce our costs by taking solid waste in-house, the impact to the customer might only be \$2 to \$4 dollars. It is that significant."

With federal grant assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior, ASPA recently purchased two new automated side loader trucks for its house-to-house solid waste collection. ASPA is also expecting three flat bed trucks for collection use in the outer villages as well as areas in which the side loader trucks cannot access.

Keyser said: "We are indebted to Mr. Jack Kachmarik, Lydia Faleafine-Nomura and Jonathan Dunn for DOI's financial assistance in making this business plan a reality."

ASPA will begin residential solid waste collection on Jan. 2, 2009 and commercial and communal village bin solid waste collection services on April 1, 2009. The schedule for all the routes for residential solid waste collections will be published in the local newspapers beginning Saturday, Dec. 20, 2009.

Lafaele said ASPA Solid Waste Division conducted a survey of Tutuila and subsequently developed new collection methods by dividing villages by routes in order to ensure that all customers - including those residing in outer areas or with narrowed access roads - will have their trash collected in a timely manner. He said ASPA has hired 12 new employees for this first effort.

Lafaele said that the demand for solid waste collections have increased over the years and therefore frequent trash collections are needed in order to meet the demand and improve services to the customers. This is why residential trash collections will be made three times weekly on all routes throughout the island, he added.

Collection services will take place as early as 5:30 a.m. daily.

"We hope for a smooth transition and we hope that the increase in collection services per week will reduce overflow of trash on the roadside as well as improve our services to residents of American Samoa," said Lafaele. "We also ask for the public's understanding should there be any unforeseen hiccups during this transitional phase."



*Pictured are Teen Challenge members who visited the Office of the Governor on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, and performed Christmas carols for the staff.*

*Teen Challenge was recently awarded funding from the Governor's Safe and Drug Free Program.*

*(Photo: americansamoa.gov)*



## ASPA and SPA enter into solar energy data sharing agreement

A data-sharing agreement between the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) and South Pacific Academy (SPA) was recently finalized, laying the groundwork for a ten-year solar energy project between the two entities.

As part of their solar energy project, SPA students will provide data received through photovoltaic solar panels that the school plans to install and have operating in January 2009. In exchange for the data, ASPA has agreed to provide partial funding for the project.

The SPA Solar Energy Project will involve the installation 12 solar photovoltaic panels and a data acquisition system to monitor the performance of the solar panels. The data will be stored on a web site and the contractor for the project, Shively Island Energy & Marine, will train teachers and students on how to analyze the data and produce monthly performance reports.

Currently, there is no data on how well photovoltaic panels perform in American Samoa. ASPA is currently researching renewable energy systems to determine which systems are best suited for meeting American Samoa's energy needs. The SPA solar energy project will provide ASPA with valuable base-

line data on solar panel performance at a fraction of the cost of installing their own system.

The SPA Solar Energy Project is a \$25,000 project that is also funded by grants from the Bank of Hawaii (\$5,000) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (\$13,500). These grants fall short of funding the entire project and the ASPA funding of \$5,000 will help to ensure that the project comes to fruition. SPA will pay the remaining \$1,500.

SPA will be the first school in the territory to install a photovoltaic power system. It will save the school money on its power bill reducing it by approximately \$1,200 a year and it will also reduce the schools carbon footprint and help in the fight against global warming and climate change.

"SPA is grateful to the Bank of Hawaii and the USDA for their tremendous support of this project and to ASPA for providing the final funding to make the project a reality," said SPA Principal Evelyn Lili'o. "The project will demonstrate SPA's commitment to ensuring our students are given the opportunity to contribute their time and energy to improving the quality of our environment. In addition, the solar project will provide an opportunity for students to fully

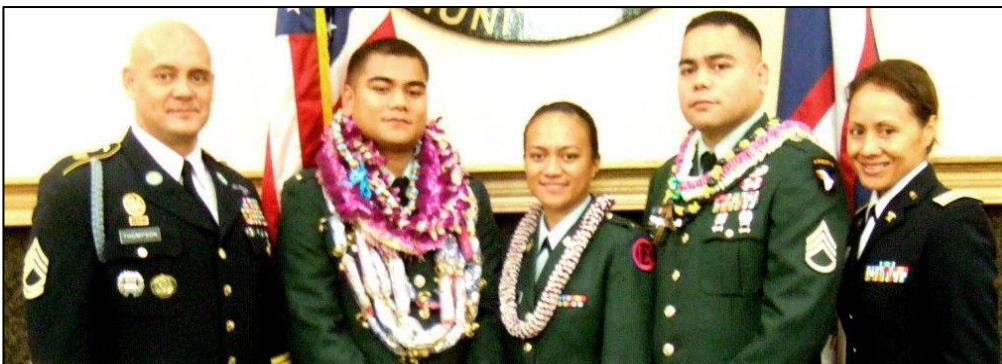
manage a project through the collection, analysis and interpretation of 'real' data."

Kathleen Kolhoff, chairperson of the SPA Board of Directors added, "It is a true partnership and this will provide SPA students with valuable scientific experience using state of the art technology. This project also shows our students that SPA is concerned about pollution from fossil fuel based energy production and is willing to find ways to reduce the amount of pollution the school is responsible for through the use of clean energy technology."

In addition, the school will be the first ASPA customer to take advantage of ASPA's new "net metering" policy, where SPA will be credited by ASPA for the power the solar panels produce but SPA does not use.

ASPA CEO Mike Keyser said, "I'm not sure which is more exciting, that we're partnering on a clean renewable energy project which will produce great data or that we finally have our first net-metering customer. Both are great first steps for ASPA. Really, this is just the tip of the iceberg for us. I firmly believe that we're going to see some great strides forward this year as our efforts start to pay off."

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The ROTC staff at ASCC gather to congratulate Saipale Vaouli (second right), who received his commission as a Second Lieutenant during a ceremony at the College this past Friday. (L-R) SFC Kenneth Thompson, Saipale, 2nd Lieutenant Hanna Seloti, Saipale's brother Staff Sgt. Larry Vaouli, and Lieutenant Maryjane Porter.

(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

## ROTC Graduate Commissioned as 2LT through ASCC...

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Average (CGPA) of 3.83. Through his exemplary academic performance and membership in the Phi Theta Kappa honors society at ASCC, Saipale received an American Samoa Government Scholarship to continue at the University of Chaminade in Hawaii.

Before starting at Chaminade, Vaouli took a semester off to join the Army Reserve, and began his military career with his Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Advanced Individual Training at Gulf Port, Mississippi. Joining the Army Reserves in Hawaii, he entered Chaminade in fall 2006, simultaneously enrolling in the Senior ROTC Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he qualified for an Army ROTC Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship. In 2007 he completed the ROTC Leader's Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Washington, graduating in the top 20 percent in the nation. Immediately after, he attended Airborne School at Fort Benning. While advancing in his military training, Vaouli continued to excel in academic pursuits, gaining acceptance into the Delta Epsilon Sigma and Delta Epsilon Iota honor societies at Chaminade.

Vaouli graduated from Chaminade on December 15th, with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, at a CGPA of 3.94, which earned him an award for Most Outstanding Graduate in Criminology and Criminal Justice. That same week, he made it home in time for his commissioning ceremony on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the Governor, numerous family members and supporters from the community, two guests made the ceremony particularly special. Retired Lt. Col. Mapu Jamias, whose efforts over the years have helped launch the ROTC programs at ASCC as well as the local high schools, read Vaouli his officer's oath. To complete the commissioning, Vaouli received the ceremonial handshake from his brother Staff Sgt. Larry Vaouli, who has returned home for the holidays before resuming his active duty in Iraq. When his time came to speak, Vaouli dedicated all of his accomplishments to his parents. "I owe my success to my father, who has never failed to provide me with support and guidance, and to my late mother, whose grace and humility continues to be my inspiration. Without God's grace, I would not have been able to reach such achievements."

This landmark event for Vaouli marked the only second occasion in which an ROTC graduate from American Samoa received a commission in a ceremony held locally. During the College's spring 2008 graduation ceremony, Hanna Seloti received her commission as Second Lieutenant, making her the first individual in American Samoa's history to receive this honor in a ceremony held here in the Territory. 2LT joined this past Friday's celebration in honor of Vaouli, along with her colleagues in the ASCC ROTC program, SFC Kenneth Thompson and Lt. Maryjane Porter.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On December 25, 1941**, Rear Admiral William Rea Furlong, who had been the Chief of the Policy and Liaison Section in the Navy's Office of Island Governments, and the American Samoan Commission's legal adviser and paymaster in September and October, 1930, was appointed Commandant of the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard. "There he had charge of the gigantic salvage project in addition to the repair of ships damaged during the Japanese attack. For service in that assignment, he was awarded the Legion of Merit and Gold Star in lieu of the second Legion of Merit."

**On December 28, 1898**, in a memorandum to Secretary of the Navy John Davis Long, R.B. Bradford, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Equipment, recommended that the United States obtain control of Tutuila and Manu'a.

**On December 28, 1929**, *Mau* leader Tupua Tamasese Lealofi III was assassinated in Apia by a New Zealand Army sniper during a peaceful *Mau* demonstration. Other demonstrators were wounded, including Mata'afa Faumuina Fiaame Mulinu'u I and Tuimalecili'ifano Siu. Tamasese issued this deathbed statement to the *Mau*: "My blood has been spilt for Samoa. I am proud to give it. Do not dream of avenging it, as it was spilt in maintaining peace. If I die, peace must be maintained at any price." (This day became known as "Black Saturday").

**On December 29, 1929**, *Mau* leader Tupua Tamasese Lealofi III died from loss of blood, 26 hours after being shot on the previous day (*q.v.*).

**On December 31, 1898**, in accordance with the provisions of the Berlin General Act, the Chief Justice of Samoa ruled that Malietoa Tanumafili I would be "King," as the three claimants (Malietoa, Tui A'ana Tupua Tamasese Lealofi I and Mata'afa Iosefo) could not agree among themselves as to who should be "King." Once again, civil war broke out.

**On December 31, 1921**, the last day of Calendar Year 1921, American Samoa had 18 public schools in the following villages: Afono, Alao, Amanave, Anua (the Poyer School), 'Aoa, Aoloau, Aunu'u, Faga'itua, Fagali'i, Fagasa, Ili'ili, Leone (girls' school), Ofu, Olosega, Ta'u and Vatia.

**On December 31, 1926**, the religious membership of Samoa was as follows:

Religion:	West. Samoa:	Am. Samoa:
London Missionary Society:	23,474	6,985
Wesleyan Methodist Mission:	6,447	295
Roman Catholic Mission:	5,842	1,047
Mormon Mission:	898	353
Seventh Day Adventists:	27	-

**On December 31, 1941**, "a boatload of residents of outlying Samoan islanders docked at the Naval Station. The Samoans of Tutuila found room for displaced local and outlying refugees.

**On December 31, 1942**, the Navy's Mobile Hospital No. 3 ("MOB 3") at Mapusaga, American Samoa, had completed 116 war hospital units.

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**On December 31, 1963**, Saleva'a "Konishiki" Fauli Atisano'e, Samoan sumo wrestler, and the first foreigner to achieve the rank of Champion in Japan, was born in Honolulu, Hawaii to Lautoa Atisano'e of Tula and Talafa'aiva of Poloa, Tutuila, American Samoa.